

Feb. 16, 1998

Jonathan Schwamm
PO Box 547
Fairfield, Iowa 52556

Dear Ms. Stommes:

I wanted to make it very clear that I do not want genetically engineered organisms, processing agents, or agricultural inputs to be allowed in organic-even on a case by case basis. I would also ask that you prohibit the use of irradiation and sewage sludge, and that the standard for the treatment of livestock in organic and the fee structure for certification be consistent with the NOSB's recommendations. The NOSB represents a broad consensus of organic farmers, manufacturers and consumers regarding the principles of organic agriculture and foods production. To formulate regulations that do not reflect their recommendations on genetic engineering, irradiation, sewage sludge, etc., will gravely weaken consumer confidence in the organic label, and threaten the viability of this industry.

Also, it is vital that the small farmers, certifiers and processors should be fully supported, since they are the backbone of truly organic products.

If we do not protect the organic food from dangerous, environmentally and socially destructive practices, then American people will no longer have the possibility of choosing the highest quality, safest food for themselves. This would be a crime to humanity!

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and including my input in your final decision.

Very Sincerely,

Jonathan C. Schwamm
Jonathan C. Schwamm

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